

Pastoral care Policy

Much of what takes place in school contributes to the personal and social development of young people and the ethos of the school supports this. The tutorial time which is allocated from years 7 - 13 aims to increase achievement by enabling pupils to develop self-awareness; to extend their understanding of the nature of personal and social relationships and of the social, economic and political world in which they live. The intention is to develop in pupils effective skills to help them cope in a rapidly changing world. The pastoral curriculum is seen as an integral element of a Whole School Policy, being taught through a variety of learning strategies and, where possible, being seen to be relevant and an extension of subject lessons. It is vital for all pupils to develop good communication and study skills and be able to research and discuss issues, expressing their attitudes and values, as well as actively listening to other viewpoints.

In Prendergast all teachers are required to share in pastoral responsibility and the form tutor is the first line in establishing personal contacts with pupils and parents. It is important for tutors to observe, know and communicate with pupils as well as support, counsel and guide them during their personal growth and academic achievement. The group is as important as the individual and the tutor aims to foster a secure group environment, valuing all members and encouraging self discipline, self assessment and responsibility.

We aim to extend our pastoral curriculum beyond the school day and out of the school environment and consequently arrange visits out of school, invite speakers into school and run and support school journeys in each year except years 11 and 13. Careers and community work play a large part in the pastoral curriculum of the Upper School and sixth form and once again this is supported by Work Experience placements in years 10 and 13, and Community Service placements in year 12. Many differing learning opportunities are offered to students out of school hours and pupils are encouraged to take an active role in a range of activities such as dramatic, sporting, musical and homework and IT clubs. To encourage Higher Education, the school has a policy of visiting universities with year 10 and 6th form students, both for the day and residential visits. Each section of the school has a team leader: Assistant Head Teacher KS3, Assistant Head Teacher KS4 and Assistant Head Teacher KS5 who are the managers of their Heads of Year and form tutors and aim to support, share and monitor their sections, pupils and their staff.

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